

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4328

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV PFOR PINS AO US
SUBJECT: FLEC TERRORIST THREAT

REF: LISBON 4238

SUMMARY: FLEC "FOREIGN MINISTER" BERNARD BORY DECLARED TO US THAT FLEC HAD GIVEN UP HOPE FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE; ALL THAT FLEC NOW SOUGHT WAS U.S. NEUTRALITY. FLEC WILL DESTROY THE CABINDA GULF INSTALLATIONS. IF THE USG THEN RETALIATES--AS IT HAS PROMISED--BY PRESSURING MOBUTU TO CLAMP DOWN ON FLEC THEN, HE THREATENED, FLEC "WILL NOT HESITATE TO BLOW UP U.S. AIRLINERS OR ENGAGE IN OTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST THE U.S." END SUMMARY.

1. BERNARD BORY, CABINDA ENCLAVE LIBERATION FRONT (FLEC) MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE, AND CARLOS PUNA, LISBON FLEC REP, CALLED ON EMBASSY MAY 31. BORY'S PRINCIPAL POINTS:

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(A) FLEC RECONCILED: FLEC HELD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT RECEIVING ANY U.S. ASSISTANCE: THE U.S. HAD SHUT THE DOOR ON FLEC. FLEC UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. RATIONALE THOUGH IT DID NOT AGREE WITH IT. IN PARTICULAR, FLEC DID NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. UNWILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, BUT FLEC WOULD NO LONGER ASK USG FOR ANYTHING. EVEN CONTACTS WITH USG, AS THEY WERE A "MASSIVE WASTE OF TIME," WOULD BE REDUCED IF NOT

ELIMINATED. FLEC WOULD HENCEFORTH ORIENT ITSELF TO EUROPE. HOWEVER, HE WANTED USG TO HAVE NO DOUBTS AS TO THE FINAL FLEC POSITION; HENCE HIS VISIT TO THE EMBASSY.

(B) GULF CABINDA: GULF TOO HAD SHUT ITS DOOR ON FLEC.

IT WAS CLEAR, FROM MEETINGS IN LONDON OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS WITH GULF OFFICIALS LEWIS ET AL., THAT GULF WOULD NOT EVACUATE ITS CABINDA INSTALLATION NOR CEASE PRODUCTION, BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO PAY ROYALTIES TO ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT (RPA). GULF WAS THE ENEMY AND HAS TO BE DESTROYED. THE INSTALLATIONS WILL BE DESTROYED "EITHER TOMORROW OR IN ONE, TWO, OR THREE MONTHS."

(C) USG ARM TWISTING: THE USG HAS THE CAPABILITY, AND SEEMINGLY THE INTENTION, TO BE FLEC'S WORST ENEMY. ON SEPT 17, 1976, FOLLOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF A GULF PIPELINE BY A FREE-LANCE FLEC PATROL, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA INSTRUCTED MOBUTU TO CLAMP DOWN ON FLEC. CONSEQUENTLY, FLEC PRESIDENT N'ZITA AND OTHER FLEC LEADERS WERE PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST. AMEMBASSY KINSHASA HAS WARNED FLEC THAT USG WOULD EXERT ALL NECESSARY LEVERAGE ON ZAIRE TO DESTROY FLEC IF IT ATTACKS GULF. FLEC WILL NOT STAND BY IDLY IF AGAIN FACED WITH SUCH A THREAT TO ITS EXISTANCE.

(D) EXTREMISM PAYS: FLEC COULD NOT EASILY SURVIVE IF ZAIREAN SUPPORT WERE CUT OFF OR IF ITS LEADERSHIP WERE INCARCERATED. IF THE USG DOES THIS FOLLOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF GULF, THEN FLEC WILL BE PLACED IN AN "EXTREME POSITION." AND EXTREME POSITIONS "CALL FOR EXTREME REACTIONS." FLEC "HAS LEARNED THE PLO LESSON: EXTREMISM PAYS." FLEC WILL NOT HESITATE TO RETALIATE BY "BLOWING UP A PAN AM AIRLINER OR ENGAGING IN OTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST THE U.S." BORY REPEATED THIS POINT SEVERAL TIMES, BUT CLAIMED THAT FLEC CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD DO IT ONLY AS "LAST RESORT."

(E) MPLA OVERTURE: MPLA REPS IN LISBON AND BRUSSELS HAD CONTACTED HIM WITHIN THE LAST THREE MONTHS. THEY CONVEYED AN RPA PROPOSAL BY WHICH CABINDA WOULD GAIN WIDE AUTONOMY WITHIN A FEDERAL ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT IN RETURN FOR A FLEC CEASE FIRE. FLEC REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND.

(F) PRC AND SOUTH KOREA: JUST RECENTLY, CLAIMD BORY, A (PRC) DIPLOMAT WALKED INTO HIS PARIS OFFICE UNANNOUNCED. IN SUBSTANCE, HE ASKED WHAT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE FLEC REQUIRED. BORY TOLD THE PRC REP THAT CHINA WAS WELCOME TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE BUT FLEC DID NOT SOLICIT IT. FLEC, HE SAID, HAS NO DESIRE TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH THE PRC. IN CONTRAST, HE CONTACTED A SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMAT AND REQUESTED ROK ASSISTANCE, BUT THE MEETING WAS INCONCLUSIVE.

(G) LISBON OBJECTIVES: TWO OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THE LISBON VISIT WERE TO CONTACT THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND TO DESCREDIT "FORMER" FLEC REP IN LISBON JOAO SERRANO. SERRANO HAD "RASHLY" REVEALED TO THE WEEKLY "O PAIS" THAT FLEC HAD ASSASSINATED CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE PRESIDENT N'GOUABI. "O PAIS" RAN THE STORY

MAY 27. CARLOS PUNA, WOULD HENCEFORTH BE SOLE AUTHORIZED FLEC REP IN LISBON.

(H) CUBANS IN CABINDA: TURNING TO MILITARY SUBJECTS, BORY STATED THAT THE CLAIMED "ENCIRCLEMENT" OF DINGE WAS BROKEN BY CUBAN TROOPS, WHO RELIEVED THE CITY IN A MAY 15 PINCHER MOVEMENT FROM PANGA MONGO AND MASSABI. BECAUSE OF THE RECENT UNREST IN LUANDA, HOWEVER, 1,00 TO 1,200 CUBANS HAD BEEN AIRLIFTED BACK TO LUANDA FROM CABINDA.

2. MORE ON U.S. ASSISTANCE: DESPITE BORY'S EARLIER PROMISE NOT TO MAKE ANY FURTHER REQUESTS FROM THE U.S., HE CLOSED THE MEETING BY MENTIONING A U.S. "FAVOR" WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO FLEC. FLEC, HE SAID, HOPED TO RAISE REVENUE BY HARVESTING IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS 20,000 TONS OF COFFEE BEANS FROM FLEC-CONTROLLED TERRITORY IN CABINDA. HE SET THE ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE AT U.S. \$20 MILLION. FLEC HOPES TO MOVE THE BEANS TO ZAIRE
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AND THENCE TO MARKET. THE USG COULD HELP, HE SAID BY BLOCKING ANY MOBUTU EFFORT TO PIRATE BEANS OR SALE PROCEEDS.

3. COMMENT: BORY WAS AFFABLE AND OPEN IN HIS CONVERSATION, BUT IN CERTAIN AREAS, SUCH AS EXTENT OR CONTACTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DID NOT WISH TO ENLARGE ON WHAT HE HAD SAID. REPLYING TO BORY'S MENACING STATEMENTS, EMBOFFS WARNED THAT USG WOULD NOT TOLERATE THREATS. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT USCH ACTIVITIES COULD ONLY PREJUDICE FLEC OBJECTIVES.
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